DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish propagation waters in Cockrell Creek, located in Northumberland County, Virginia.

The impaired segment is located wholly within Northumberland County. This area is described in the following publication:

1) Growing Area 12 as described in Virginia Department of Health, Notice and Description of Shellfish Area Condemnation Numbers 2 and 202, Cockrell Creek, effective 14 September 1993, and 23 August 1999, and 15 November 2004 respectively.

The affected water body segments are identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish waters. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

The first public meeting on the development of the fecal coliform TMDL's will be held on March 1, 2005 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Northumberland County Board Room, located at 72 Monument Place, Heathsville, Virginia. Directions can be obtained by calling Chris French at (804) 521-5124. The public comment period will begin on March 1, 2005, and end at 5.p.m. on March 31, 2005. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Chris French and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. Requests should be sent to Chris French, Department of Environmental Quality, Piedmont Regional Office, Glen Allen, VA, 23060, telephone (804) 527-5124, Fax (804)-527-5106, or e-mail refrench@deq.virginia.gov.